

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3730

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 4865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: STATUS OF MEDIATION EFFORT

REF: KINSHASA 4837

1. DURING MY MAY 22 DISCUSSION OF THE SHABA INVASION WITH
PRESIDENT MOBUTU HE SAID THAT THE ANGOLANS WISHED TO HAVE THE
CONGOLESE INSTEAD OF THE NIGERIANS SERVE AS MEDIATORS, AND THAT
ZAIRE WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A CHANGE (REFTEL).
SINCE MOBUTU DID NOT SEEM INCLINED TO GO INTO THIS MATTER
FURTHER, I FOLLOWED UP THE NEXT DAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA.
HE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ELABORATION.

2. AFTER THE MAY 9 MEETING OF ZAIRIAN AND ANGOLAN REPRESENTA-
TIVES IN LAGOS FAILED TO MARK PROGRESS, GARBA WENT TO LUANDA
WHERE HE ENCOUNTERED A FURTHER PUT-OFF FROM NETO ON THE EXCUSE
THAT HE HAD TO CONSULT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU.

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APPARENTLY SINCE THEN THE NIGERIANS HAVE HEARD NOTHING MORE
FROM LUANDA.

3. MEANWHILE, ON MAY 18 THE CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER
DELIVERED TO MOBUTU A LETTER FROM NEW CONGOLESE PRESIDENT
YHOMBI SAYING IN EFFECT THAT NETO DID NOT WISH TO DEAL WITH
THE NIGERIANS AS MEDIATORS BUT WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE PROVIDED

THE CONGOLESE RESUMED THEIR ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY. IN FACT, NETO HAD TOLD THE CONGO LESE HE WAS READY TO SIT DOWN WITH MOBUTU ANYWHERE, ANYTIME AND DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SECURITY ALONG THE ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN FRONTIER (NOT RPT NOT JUST SHABA). MOBUTU REPLIED VIA THE CONGOLESE THAT HE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE NETO'S PROPOSAL, BUT THAT HE WISHED TO HAVE TALKS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL BEFORE SEEING NETO HIMSELF.

4. NGUZA SAID ZAIRE HAD IN NO WAY FORSAKEN THE NIGERIANS. IN THEORY AT LEAST THE NIGERIAN TRACK REMAINED OPEN AND ZAIRE WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO PRUSUE IT IN ADDITION TO OTHERS, SUCH AS THE CONGOLESE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMED EVIDENT THE ANGOLANS WERE NOT SIMILARLY DISPOSED. MOBUTU BELIEVED THE ANGOLANS' POSITION WAS INFLUENCED BY THE SOVIETS WHO WERE CONCERNED THAT THE SUCCESS OF A NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFT, OTENLY AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES, MIGHT BE VIEWED AS A SOVIET DEFEAT IN AFRICA. MOREOVER, NIGERIA HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IT SYMPATHIZED WITH ZAIRE IN THE SHABA AFFAIR AND WAS THEREFORE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION BY LUANDA AND MOSCOW. FINALLY, CONGO WAS POLITICALLY MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED THAN NIGERIA TOWARD THE SOVIETS AND ANGOLANS, AND COULD BE MORE EASILY INFLUENCED BY THEM.

5. NGUZA HAS ALREADY INFORMED GARBA OF ANGOLA'S POSITION AS CONVEYED BY THE CONGOLESE. HE SAID THAT WHILE GARBA WAS NOT VERY PLEASED, THE NIGERIANS WERE APPARENTLY WILLING TO KEEP THEIR CHANNEL OPEN FOR POSSIBLE FURHTER USE. MOBUTU REGRETTED THAT THE NIGERIANS HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY NETO BUT HAD MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS READY TO DISCUSS ALL

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BILATERAL ISSUED, REGARDLESS OF WHO SERVED AS INTERMEDIARY.

6. NGUZA WAS NOT PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT SERIOUS BORDER INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN SHABA DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN THERE WAS NEITHER NEUTRAL POLICE FORCE ALONG FRONTIER OR ACTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ZAIRIAN AND ANGOLAN GOVERNMENTS. HE DOUBTED THE ANGOLANS WOULD RISK PROVOKING FAZ, CLAIMING THAT DURING RECENT FIGHTING NEAR LUASHI THEY HAD PREVENTED KATANGANS FROM RETREATING INTO ANGOLA, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID FAZ HOT PURSUIT. AS FOR THE ZAIRIANS, MOBUTU HAD GIVEN STRICT ORDERS TO FAZ NOT TO VIOLATE THE FRONTIER. (NGUZA CONFIRMED THAT ZAIRIAN FORCES HAD SHELLED ANGOLAN TERRITORY WHEN RECAPTURING DILLOLO BUT STRESSED THIS WAS ACCIDENTAL. HE NOTED, MOREOVER, THAT THE ANGOLANS HAD MADE NO MILITARY RESPONSE.)

7. NGUZA ANTICIPATED MEETING WITH HIS ANGOLAN COUNTERPART, BUT PROBABLY NOT BEFORE HE RETURNS FROM CIEC MEETING EARLY IN JUNE. HE AGREED THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT MIGHT SERVE AS AN INDUCEMENT TO THE ANGOLANS TO RESUME TALKS WITH ZAIRE AT AN EARLY

DATE. HE SAID THAT THE SHABA EXPERIENCE WOULD INEVITABLY BE DIS-
CUSSED AT OAU IN CONTEXT OF AFRICAN CONCERN FOR TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY, BUT THAT GOZ DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE
OF CONDEMNING THE SOVIETS AT THE CONFERENCE.

CUTLER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. MCCORMICK, S/S-O.

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